

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2009 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Smisek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bunting, Candioly, Rische, Smisek, Strehler, and Chairperson Miranda.

Absent: Commissioner Endo-Roberts.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Rappoport and Cultural Services Senior Supervisor Bell.

MOTION: Commissioner Strehler moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Endo-Roberts for the September 21, 2009 Commission meeting. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Strehler seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Smisek moved to approve the July 20, 2009 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

6. INTRODUCTIONS

6A. PENNY KASTAGIR, PRESIDENT, TORRANCE ARTISTS' GUILD

Commissioner Strehler, member of Torrance Artists' Guild (TAG), excused herself from the meeting room during this agenda item.

Manager Rappoport distributed the TAG 2009 Annual Report.

Penny Kastagir, president of TAG and member of South Bay Watercolor Society (SBWS), introduced herself and read and entered into record "An Appeal to the Torrance Cultural Arts Commission – Request for support for the Torrance Artists' Guild."

At Manager Rappoport's suggestion, Ms. Kastagir provided an overview of highlights and accomplishments included in the 2009 Annual Report for TAG.

Commissioner Bunting requested a copy of TAG's Charter.

Manager Rappoport offered to provide Commissioners copies of the Charter but pointed out that that it was drafted in 1974 and is broad and outdated.

Commissioner Strehler returned to the meeting room.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. DONATIONS OF ARTWORKS POLICY

Manager Rappoport presented a final copy of the Donation of Artworks Policy that was approved by the City Attorney and Risk Manager. She expressed appreciation to Commissioner Bunting for her assistance and requested that Commissioners review the revised policy.

In response to Commissioner Candioly's inquiry, she advised that once a donation is in the possession of the City the City will have responsibility for it.

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to accept as submitted the Policy for Donations and Acquisitions of Artwork to the City of Torrance Through the Cultural Arts Commission. Commissioner Bunting seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

7B. PROPOSAL TO INSTALL PERMANENT SCULPTURE IN MIRAMAR PARK

Manager Rappoport provided background on former Mayor Dan Walker's offer to donate a bronze sculpture "Dreaming of the Kiss" by artist Kim Kori. She stated that Mr. Walker would like to see the sculpture permanently installed at Miramar Park and has offered to pay for all relocation, design, material, installation, and a bronze plaque dedicating the sculpture to his late wife Sandi Walker. She noted that public notification and a map of Miramar Park marked with the proposed location for the sculpture are included in agenda materials.

In response to Commissioner Bunting's inquiry, she advised that Madrona Marsh Preserve was considered and can be considered again; however, the donor much prefers Miramar Park.

Commissioner Candioly expressed concern about possible vandalism or theft.

Dan Walker responded that the 300+ pound sculpture would be attached to a pedestal in such a way that it cannot be moved and that bronze makes it impervious to graffiti. He provided background on the acquisition of the sculpture and reasons why he wanted to place the sculpture in Miramar Park in memory of his wife Sandi. He stated that the frog is universally known to bring good luck, that frogs are everywhere except Antarctica, and that the sculpture would bring much enjoyment. He distributed a photograph taken from the condominium complex across the street showing minimal visual impact.

Chris Michalski, Calle Miramar, stated that he has no objections to the donation but pointed out that children would climb on the sculpture as they do on the dolphin sculpture at Miramar Park. He expressed concern about the proposed concrete pad and potential liability to the City.

Commissioner Strehler shared his concern but stated that she has no objection to the placement as long as it can be made safe.

Manager Rappoport advised that safety concerns could be looked into with the installers.

Hope Witkowsky, Mesa Street, stated that the sculpture is beautiful, that the City needs more art in public places, and that she trusts City staff and installers to make sure there is no danger to the public.

Greg Flick, Esplanade Avenue, stated that people go to Miramar Park to enjoy and see an unobstructed view of ocean, that there is already a sculpture in the Park, and that the sculpture should be placed by a pond.

Jane Cash, Shorewood Road, stated that the sculpture is beautiful but is completely inappropriate for an ocean setting.

Ken Vroom, Calle Miramar, expressed concern about safety and pointed out that the dolphin sculpture has a rubber base.

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to defer further discussion on the item until the October 19, 2009 meeting to allow Commissioners the opportunity to visit the proposed site. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

7C. COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Manager Rappoport presented the Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report for July 2008 through June 2009 and voiced her appreciation to Commissioner Strehler for her assistance in preparing it.

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved to accept the Cultural Arts Commission July 2008 through June 2009 Annual Report as submitted. Commissioner Strehler seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

7D. COMMISSION CONSOLIDATION

Manager Rappoport reported that an ad hoc Council Committee for Commission Review met on August 24, 2009 to initiate discussions for review of City Commissions, adding that Commissioners Candioly and Strehler spoke at that meeting. She noted that History and Background of City Commissions and Minutes from the August 24, 2009 meeting were included in agenda materials. She stated that the Commission normally goes dark in August and raised the possibility of also going dark in December. She requested that Commissioners provide feedback and input which would be forwarded to the Council Committee.

Commissioner Candioly related his observation that at the meeting all Commissioners from every Commission were very passionate about wanting to help the City without any consolidation.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of Commissioners that the Commission seems right as it is but is willing to go dark in December if "push comes to shove."

7E. COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Manager Rappoport noted that standing sub-committee assignments have been in place for at least one year and suggested reviewing assignments and making new nominations.

Commissioner Candioly offered to chair the Grants Review Committee consisting of Commissioners Candioly, Bunting, and Smisek.

Commissioner Strehler stated that she may be moving out of the City and Chairperson Miranda volunteered to take her place as chair of the Facilities Committee consisting of Commissioners Endo-Roberts, Strehler, and Candioly as an alternate.

Commissioner Rische stated that she would like to serve on the Excellence in Arts Committee.

7F. UPDATE ON WILSON PARK GAZEBO

Manager Rappoport recommended that the Facilities Committee reconvene to revisit improvements to the gazebo area of Wilson Park with a landscape architect from Sasaki Associates. She noted that \$90,000 has been set aside for potential improvements, adding that a list of suggested improvements is attached to agenda materials.

7G. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2009 AS NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

MOTION: Commissioner Strehler moved to recommend that City Council issue a proclamation declaring October as National Arts and Humanities month in Torrance. Commissioner Bunting seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS COMMITTEE

No report.

8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

No report.

8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager Rappoport noted that the Cultural Services Division Report for July and August 2009 was included in agenda material. She distributed fliers for Torrance Theatre Company's "The Dixie Swim Club" on September 25 through October 4, 2009. She stated that classes started on September 21, 2009 and that 375 people attended the exhibition opening of Baker's Dozen at Torrance Art Museum (TAM) on September 19, 2009.

Commissioner Smisek noted that Torrance Artist Guild (TAG) and South Bay Watercolor Society (SBWS) provided 240 service hours at Torrance Art Museum during their shows in July and August 2009.

10. ORALS

10A. Hope Witkowsky, Mesa Street, artist, stated that she wants to show her artwork, that the City has an enormous amount of talent and no place to show it, that she has heard that attendance is poor at Torrance Art Museum, and that showing local artists would bring in more visitors.

10B. Susan Schilling, Carmelynn Street, artist, discussed the importance of seeing local artists in different and prestigious venues. She stated that she has her business thanks to TAG and SBWS and has volunteered for a year at TAM.

10C. Richard Whitehorse, Wood Avenue, TAM, stated that local artists should be able to show their artwork in the community, that TAG gives back to the community, and asked the Commission for its support.

10D. June Armstrong, 186th Street, Redondo Beach, on behalf of TAG, inquired why TAM is kicking out local artists. She suggested that Torrance citizens be allowed to vote or be involved in this decision.

Manager Rappoport responded that local artists are not being kicked out and offered to speak with her after the meeting.

10E. Stephen West, Linda Drive, noted that there are over 100 members in TAG and SBWS and only 40-45 artists can hang their work. He expressed concern that even less artists would be able to show their work if there is a combined show of a number of groups. He stated that the community needs to be represented and that young artists should be given an opportunity to show their work.

10F. Anita Johnson, West 230th Place, noted that Torrance is a community-spirited town and that four to six weeks out of a year is a small amount of time.

10G. Audrey Suer stated that she has worked at TAM for four years and noted that there is high attendance during the TAG and SBWS shows.

10H. Don Hata took issue with Manager Rappoport's offer to speak to an audience member after the meeting and stated that there should be more transparency.

Chairperson Miranda and Manager Rappoport explained that this is Oral Communications and discussion is not allowed.

10I. Karen Yee, TAG, stated that she would be greatly disappointed if she can no longer exhibit her artwork at TAM.

Manager Rappoport distributed a letter from Eric Yahnker dated September 21, 2009 and Commissioner Bunting requested that staff provide project descriptions of what is being proposed for TAM.

Hope Witkowsky suggested that an item be placed on the agenda for the October 19, 2009 Commission meeting to discuss the policy change.

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to place the item on the agenda for the October 19, 2009 Commission meeting. Commissioner Bunting seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

10J. Commissioner Bunting stated that she enjoyed the opening exhibition at TAM, the FYF Music Festival, and Nine Inch Nails.

10K. Commissioner Smisek expressed support to TAG members and stated that she enjoyed "Damn Yankees," the Block Park, the Employees Variety Show, and Brazil night at the Hollywood Bowl.

10L. Commissioner Candioly thanked audience members for attending this meeting and stated that he is supportive of local artists. He enjoyed “Damn Yankees,” a songwriter at the Coronet Theatre, and a tour of the Getty Museum.

10M. Commissioner Rische stated that she enjoyed “Spamalot” and “Damn Yankees.”

10N. Commissioner Strehler stated that she enjoyed the TAG exhibit and “Damn Yankees.”

10O. Chairperson Miranda stated that he has been busy with activities in October for Filipino-American Heritage Month and that he enjoyed Natalie Cole at the Hollywood Bowl.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:52 p.m., Commissioner Candioly moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, October 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Bunting seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Miranda so ordered.

Approved as Submitted October 19, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
